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thread

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(1) In online discussions, a series of messages that have been posted as replies to each other. A single [forum](#) or [conference](#) typically contains many threads covering different subjects. By reading each message in a thread, one after the other, you can see how the discussion has evolved. You can start a new thread by posting a message that is not a reply to an earlier message.

(2) In [programming](#), a part of a program that can [execute](#) independently of other parts. [Operating systems](#) that [support multithreading](#) enable [programmers](#) to design programs whose threaded parts can execute concurrently.

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multithreading

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The ability of an operating system to execute different parts of a program, called *threads*, simultaneously. The programmer must carefully design the program in such a way that all the threads can run at the same time without interfering with each other.

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